

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Reeder, Tod W. 1990. *Eumeces managuae*.

Eumeces managuae Dunn

Eumeces taeniolatus: Boulenger, 1887: 383 (not of Blyth, 1853). Misidentification.

Eumeces managuae Dunn, 1933:67. Type-locality, "Aviation Field, Managua, Nicaragua." Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 89474, a male collected by James H. Ivy in 1932 (not examined by author).

• **Content.** No subspecies have been described.

• **Defintion.** *Eumeces managuae*, a member of the *Schwartzii* species group (*sensu* Taylor, 1935), is a large skink (adults ranging from 104 to 125 mm snout-vent length) characterized by a series of greatly expanded middorsal scales, four times wider than long, which extend from the shoulders to near the base of the tail. There are 17 rows of scales at midbody. The inner preanal scales overlap the outer ones. The nostril pierces a very small nasal above the suture of the rostral and first labial. There are four pairs of expanded nuchals, followed by several paired middorsal scales. The two tertiary temporals are not strongly differentiated. There is one postmental, a postnasal, three presuboculars and two pairs of postlabials. The auricular lobules are large. The terminal lamellae of the toes are tightly bound about the base of the claws. There are two greatly enlarged heel plates. The subcaudals are transversely widened. The lateral postanal scale is not differentiated. The adpressed limbs are widely separated. The dorsal color varies from greenish-brown to yellowish-brown with dark pigment forming diffuse lines on the body. The top and the sides of the head and both dorsal and ventral surfaces of the tail are dark-spotted. The ventral surfaces are immaculate white to cream.

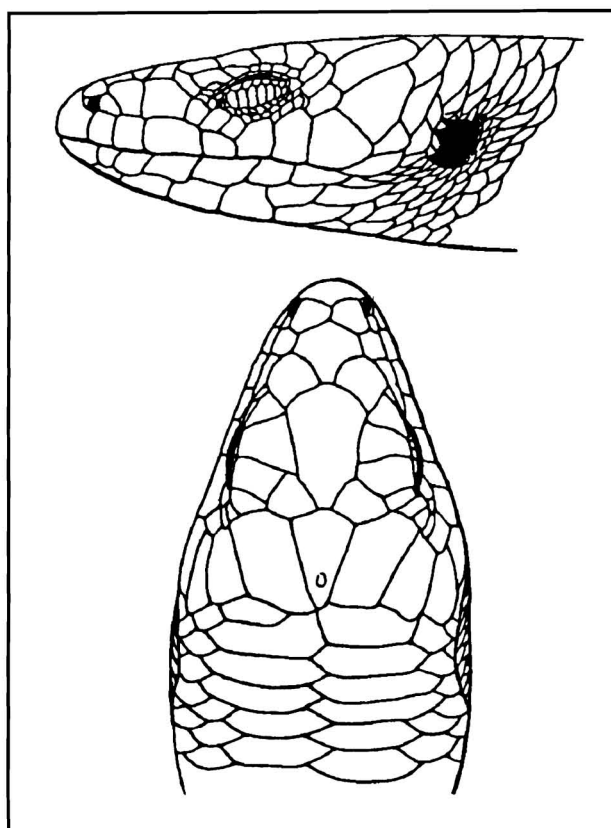
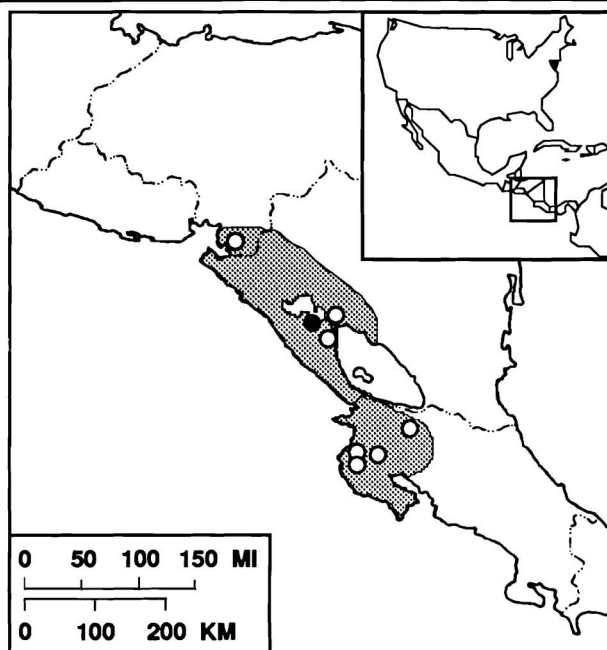


Figure. *Eumeces managuae*, holotype. From Taylor (1935). Reproduced with permission.



Map. Solid circle indicates the type-locality. Open circles mark other localities.

• **Diagnosis.** *Eumeces managuae* can be distinguished from all congeners by possession of enlarged middorsal scales, three presuboculars posterior to the second loreal and by having the limbs widely separated (by at least one body width) when adpressed.

• **Descriptions.** Descriptions of scalation, pattern, and morphological variation are in Dunn (1933) and Taylor (1935, 1955, 1956). Cruz et al. (1979) described a female from Honduras.

• **Illustrations.** Black and white photographs of preserved specimens are in Taylor (1935, 1955, 1956). Line drawings illustrating head scalation are in Taylor (1935). A black-and-white photograph of a living specimen is in Villa et al. (1988).

• **Distribution.** *Eumeces managuae* occurs in arid tropical habitats ("Tropical Dry Forest Formation" of Holdridge, 1964) of the Pacific lowlands of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Only one specimen has been found in Honduras (Cruz et al., 1979). Incomplete distribution maps are in Taylor (1935) and Duellman (1966).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** The only comprehensive work on the relationships of *Eumeces managuae* within the *Schwartzii* species group is Taylor (1935). Some habitat information is in Taylor (1955, 1956), Duellman (1966) and Cruz et al. (1979). *Eumeces managuae* is included in keys to Central American *Eumeces* by Dunn (1933) and Peters and Donoso-Barros (1970) and is listed in recent faunal checklists of Middle America (Villa et al., 1988), Honduras (Wilson, 1983), Nicaragua (Villa, 1971, 1983), and Costa Rica (Savage 1980, Savage and Villa, 1986). Very little is known about the biology of this species.

• **Nomenclatural History.** The first known specimen of this species was erroneously labeled as coming from India and misidentified as *Eumeces taeniolatus* by Boulenger (1887). In 1932 Edward H. Taylor, while revising the genus *Eumeces*, discovered that Boulenger's specimen represented a new species related to *E. altamirani* and *E. schwartzii* of Middle America. Inexplicably, Taylor did not name the new species. Unknown to him, a second specimen, with correct locality data, had been obtained from Nicaragua and was named *Eumeces managuae* by Dunn (1933).

• **Etymology.** The name *managuae* refers to the type-locality.

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